GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1081
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
WTO STIPULATIONS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the WTO stipulations i.e., agreement on Agriculture and agreement on Textiles have been implemented by the developed countries by the due date i.e.,January 1, 2001; (

(b) if so, the market access available to India in these countries; and (

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a), (b) & (c) : The WTO Agreement on Agriculture mandates disciplines in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support and Export Subsidies. Through an established procedure of annual notifications, Members indicate the implementation of their commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture. As there is a time-lag in filing these notifications in the WTO, the final compilation of implementation of commitments is not complete as yet. However, as per WTO statistics India`s share in world exports of agriculture commodities, which stood at 1.3% for the period 1991-94 increased to 1.9% for the year 1998.

The provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) mandate eventual integration into GATT of trade in the area of textiles and clothing by 2005, after which the multilateral trading rules of GATT/WTO would be applicable.This integration is being carried out in four stages over the 10 year transition period. So far various countries have integrated into GATT 1994 textiles and clothing products, which accounted for not less than 33% of the total volume of the country`s 1990 imports of the products in this area. In accordance with the provisions of ATC, WTO member countries have also notified their schedule for integrating a further 18% of the total volume of 1990 import of the products in this area, to be effective from 1st January 2002. The process of integration into GATT 1994 of trade in this area has so far not resulted in any meaningful removal of quotas in respect of developing countries as the integration process is back- loaded and restraining members have chosen to integrate mainly those products which are not under quota.